GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4306
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
TELEPHONE ON DEMAND
RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objectives of `telephone on demand` at affordable rates enshrined in National Telecom Policy in 1994 and 1999 have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the above, question does not arise.

(c) National Telecom Policy, 1994 envisaged various important objectives including availability of telephone on demand by the year 1997. Keeping in view that this objective would not be met only out of Government resources, private sector participation in basic services was allowed by the Government. But private sector entry has been slower than what was envisaged in National Telecom Policy, 1994 due to some contractual, legal and revenues related problems. Consequently, the objective of `Telephone on Demand` could not be met at that time.

As per New Telecom Policy, 1999, Government is committed to provide telephone on demand at affordable and reasonable prices in urban and rural areas by the year 2002.